

abandon on the steps of a hospital 18 years ago. But as I held her that day, my heart changed. I looked into her little brown eyes and I started to cry. I realized that's not what a father is supposed to do. A father is supposed to protect and take care of his child. But I had no idea whatsoever of how to do that. Because of her, I have the opportunity to come before you today and tell you the story of DADS (www.aboutdads.org).

DADS stands for Divine Alternatives for Dads Services. We are based in Seattle but serve fathers and families in the Puget Sound region and throughout Western Washington. Our vision is "Stronger Fathers, Healthier Communities." Our mission is "To give fathers hope by walking together in supportive community, helping them navigate relational and legal barriers that separate them from their children and families."

I believe—from personal experience—that the biggest problem facing our nation today is not crime, drugs and alcohol, or gang violence. These are just the results of a larger problem, which is fatherlessness. So many of the problems in our communities today are direct results of fatherlessness.

Far too many of our young people have not had strong, responsible fathers engaged in their lives. As a result, too many go off the rails. They begin committing crimes, abusing drugs and alcohol, dropping out of school, and running away from home. Another common side effect is teenage pregnancies and out-of-wedlock births.

The National Fatherhood Initiative has identified fatherlessness as the root cause of \$100 billion a year in taxpayer costs. A few statistics:

90 percent of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes.

85 percent of all children that exhibit behavioral disorders come from fatherless homes.

85 percent of all youths in prisons grew up in a fatherless home.

80 percent of rapists motivated by displaced anger come from fatherless homes.

75 percent of all adolescents in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes.

71 percent of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes.

70 percent of juveniles in state-operated institutions come from fatherless homes.

63 percent of youth suicides are individuals from fatherless homes.

I sometimes compare fatherlessness to AIDS. The AIDS virus doesn't kill you, but it breaks down your immune system, so the infection that you catch is what kills you. Fatherlessness works the same way. If you remove a father from the home, the family doesn't die, but it is opened up for infection—which comes in the form of teenage pregnancy, crime, gang violence, drugs and alcohol and other negative impacts. So what can be done about the nationwide problem of fatherlessness? DADS is a faith-based organization that addresses this problem in our Washington state. I founded this organization in the year 2000 along with my wife, Jeanett. I had spent many years of my life on the wrong side of the tracks, but when faced with the decision to leave our daughter on the steps of a hospital, I knew then that I needed to turn my life around and become a responsible father. It wasn't easy—in fact, it was the hardest thing I had ever done. But the rewards of being a real father to my children made it the best thing I have ever done. And it made me want to help other men do the same thing.

Over the last 16 years, DADS has helped over 3,000 men reunite with over 6,000 children. Our client population is predominantly

minority, with 66 percent African American. The rest are Hispanic, Asian and Caucasian. Of those clients, approximately 90 percent have a history of incarceration. Of the thousands of men who have received services from DADS, their main motivation is the desire to reenter the lives of their children.

With the help they get through our program, many of these men are able to regain visitation rights, pay child support, share or get custody, find and keep jobs, provide stable housing, become taxpaying citizens, and even reunite with their families. As a result, their children stay in school, keep off drugs and out of gangs, avoid teenage pregnancies, graduate from high school and even go on to college.

The effectiveness of our program depends on the trust that each individual develops in our staff as we help them navigate systems. For this reason, DADS does not charge for our services. We focus on building a vision for healthy fatherhood and then finding the resources that each individual needs to achieve success.

Law-enforcement officers see firsthand the legacies of fatherlessness. Children from fatherless homes often become casualties, victims or offenders themselves. Then they are challenges for our school systems, social-service programs, drug and alcohol recovery services, law-enforcement agencies, legal and court systems—and ultimately our jails and prisons.

With Father's Day just around the corner, it is my hope that all of us would recommit to the goal of helping create stronger fathers and healthier communities.

TUESDAY'S IN TEXAS: "BIG FOOT" WALLACE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the year was 1840 when one of the most faithful Texans joined the Texas Rangers and began a decade's-long service to the great state of Texas. William A.A. Wallace, more often known as "Big Foot" Wallace, was born in Virginia in 1817. He moved to Texas in 1837 after hearing that a brother and a cousin were killed by the Mexican Army during the Texas Revolution. Not long after, he would join the Texas Rangers and spend the better part of his life defending Texas.

Though there are many legends about the emergence of his nickname, Wallace contended that the nickname derived from an incident with a Comanche. During the time he lived in Austin before he joined the Texas Rangers, a Comanche with large feet stole property in the area and was tracked by Wallace. When the Comanche raided the kitchen of a man in town, the man followed the Comanche's tracks to Wallace's house and thus accused Wallace of the raid. But a quick thinking Wallace pointed out that the tracks were much larger than his. It was this case of mistaken identity that led Wallace to assume the name "Big Foot."

Wallace is a descendant of the Scottish legend William Wallace, immortalized in the film *Braveheart*, who led a rebellion against King Edward I of England during the Wars of Scottish Independence. Like his ancestor who

fought courageously and for a cause he wholeheartedly believed in, "Big Foot" Wallace spent decades fighting faithfully for a cause he believed in, the defense of Texas. As a side note, Mr. Speaker, I too have a connection to William Wallace. My family are descendants of the Weems Clan (Wemyss) of Scotland. The Wemysses fought on the side of Robert Bruce and Wallace during the Scottish war of Independence. When the war was over and their side lost, the English crown confiscated much of their inherited land. The Weems Castle still sits on the coast of Scotland.

In 1840, Wallace joined the Texas Rangers and subsequently fought various skirmishes with Texas Indians and Mexicans. Two years later when fighting an invading Mexican Army during the Somervell and Mier expeditions, Wallace was among 150 men captured by Mexican forces. During this time in a Mexican prison 1 in 10 men was to be executed. Their fate was determined by drawing either a white or black bean from a jar. Those who drew the black bean were executed. Luckily, Wallace drew a white bean and was spared, and eventually released. The executions would later become known to all those who study Texas history as the "Black Bean Episode".

His time in the Mexican prison must have furthered his resolve because he once again volunteered to serve with the Texas Rangers and during the Mexican War he served in a company of Mounted Volunteers in the United States Army. Following the Mexican War and through the Civil War, this Loyal Texan once again served with the Texas Rangers fighting to protect the Texas frontier from bandits, Indians, deserters and Union soldiers.

As a testament to his loyal service to Texas, Wallace was given a tract of land in Frio County, in South Texas, where he lived until his death in 1899. He was ultimately buried at the Texas State Cemetery at the feet of Stephen F. Austin. He has become a folk legend for those in Texas and beyond. The words at his final resting place say it all, "Here lies he who spent his manhood defending the homes of Texas. Brave, honest, and faithful."

And that's just the way it is.

SERGEANT OLAN MIKE MANNING

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Olan Mike Manning, an American patriot who exhibits the truest values of selflessness and dedication.

Sergeant Mike Manning of Laurel, Mississippi has devoted 40 years of service to his country in the United States Army and has led the 184th Brigade in both Iraq and Afghanistan. His outstanding service includes retrieval missions in the heat of battle which have been recognized through his NCO leadership positions. His efforts should be revered and are highly recognized with numerous medals and service awards.